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BEN FRANKLIN

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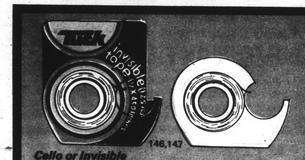

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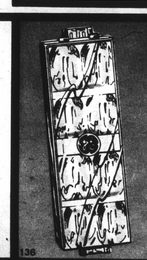

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170-171

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TIMES-VIRGINIAN

A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA

VOLUME 86 - NUMBER 50 | APPOMATTOX (VA.) - TIMES-VIRGINIAN - DECEMBER 15, 1977 | SINGLE COPY PRICE 15¢

Father Darkleaf

BY CALVIN ROBINSON

This has started out as one of the best Christmas Seasons ever. The weather has cooperated and with or without a "white" Christmas the testimony is that 1977 is leaving us with a flourist. Winter arrives, officially, on my birthday. Lots of December 25 and perhaps there are others. I must believe that local business is having excellent seasonal trade and congratulations are in order for the holiday decorations. I knew the Main Street Christmas decorations were up and looked nice, but if you have not already done so drive around after dark and see Appomattox with the Christmas lights on. And home decorations are appearing. Have seen a number of decorated mail boxes. The mail is bringing in Christmas cards. I have not mailed any yet, but must get started. Had one from the George L. Koos family, Tangent, Oregon, with added report of their busy year. Mrs. Koos is the former Virginia Christian, daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. D. A. Christian, Jr. of Appomattox.

* * *

Alas the sad note is that 1977 Virginia highway deaths are already about 100 more than last year. Why, o why. That is one 1977 record we are not proud of.

* * *

ACHS basketball is booming. Both boys and girls have victories to their credit and the teams will gain momentum with experience. Elsewhere in sports, college and pro football, the Super Bowl opponents are far from apparent, and it seems to me that the college football classic will be the Jan. 2 meeting between Texas and Notre Dame U. of Va. basketball is off to the best start in some years and fans are glad that William and Mary decided to keep its football program.

* * *

A pleasant visitor one day last week on Martha Street was my friend, Bro. D. M. Wood, Sr., RFD, Appomattox. Knowing my interest in history, he brought some fascinating data from his native state of Alabama. Mr. and Mrs. Wood moved here in 1948, purchasing a sizeable acreage on Rt. 3 in the Piney Mountian area. Cotton was the big crop in Alabama, but Mr. Wood found that Appomattox was not cotton country and he went into a well-rounded farm program suited to this area. I found that the Woods had traveled to many of the same places Brightleaf and I had been, that he liked fishing and had practiced the skill from the Red Snappers of the Gulf Coast to the crockers off Cape Hatteras, N.C. Come again, sir, and Merry Christmas.

* * *

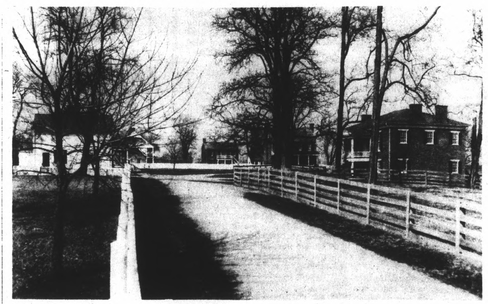
So far as I can remember, I never saw an Edsel automobile, but understand that Roger D. Hill, of Arvonia, Buckingham County, has one, and that he is president of the National Edsel Owners' Club. Years ago there were many more makes of automobiles and I remember the Stanley Steamer, and Maxwell, Essex, Cord, Whippet, Overland, and Franklin. The Franklin had an air-cooled motor. And, like many other families, our first car was a Model T.

* * *

I find that in summer one thinks of things will do next winter, and in winter one thinks of things will do next summer. A choice few learn to live one day at a time. To live tomorrow today is like trying to draw peanut butter through a straw.

* * *

A few weeks ago I fund a tiny cedar tree in my garden area. Measured six and a half inches tall. I spaded it up and placed it in a terracotta pot and it is living. Doing so fine, I have collected some red, white and gold string and some minature trinkets and will decorate it as a Christmas Tree. Leastwise, that's my plan.



Civil War Christmas And Peace Celebration

On Saturday, December 17 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Appomattox Court House National Historical Park will host the Fourth Annual "Civil War Christmas and Peace Celebration".

The historic village where the Civil War ended will be decorated and lit as if it were 1865 from December 17 to December 27 with a special open house on the night of the 17th only.

Costumed hostesses will welcome everyone to the decorated historic homes of the village residents and Christmas carols will be sung around warm bonfires, so dress warmly and join in an evening of fellowship and reflection upon the spirit of peace where our country reunited.

Appomattox Court House National Historical park is located three miles north of Appomattox, Virginia on State Route 24 and preserves the site where General Robert E. Lee surrundered to General Ulysses S. Grant on April 9, 1865.

The historical park is open daily year round except for Christmas Day, December 25.

In event of rain or particularly bad weather, the evening activities will be cancelled.

Christmas Edition Will Be Published Early

The Christmas Edition of the TIMES-VIRGINIAN will be printed and put into the post office on Tuesday, December 20th, so that you will have your newspaper before the holiday rush and our employees may have some time off for the holidays.

This will be our annual Christmas Greeting issue and if you have not been contacted and would like to have a "greeting" ad in this issue, please call us at 352-8215. We will be more than happy to take care of your greeting ad for you.

If you have copy for this issue, news stories, articles, pictures, country correspondence, or so forth, please get the copy to us Thursday, today, or Friday if at all possible. Copy not received before noon Monday will be too late for this issue.

Our staff will be back in the office on Monday, December 26th, and the paper will be printed that week on schedule.

Large Number Attend Public Hearings

Council Recessed Meeting, Budget Not Adopted

A large number of businessmen and citizens of the Town of Appomattox attended Public Hearings Monday night to discuss new ordinances concerning the Water and Sewage Charges; changes in Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Rates; and the proposed budgeting of Revenue Sharing Funds.

The proposed new charges are as follows: new Real Estate Tax will be 30c on every one hundred dollars of the assessed values of said real estate at 100% of appraised value of said real estate. Personal property will be assessed at the same rate; water usage charges in town - minimum charge $6.50 for usage up to 4,000 gallons, overage at 90c per 1,000 gallons; out of town - minimum charge of $15.00 for usage up to 4,000 gallons and overage at $1.00 per 1,000 gallons; and sewerage rates for in-town customers will be 25% of water bill to be billed with each water billing, and out of town customers will pay 38c per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation of property and will be billed once a year as in the past.

Of those present at the public hearing, only one citizen indicated that his taxes would go up only 10%, 1 said his taxes would increase over 25% and four would realize an increase of over 50%. Many of those present complained of tax increases of as much as 67%, 70%, and up to 97% for some.

The Town of Appomattox, in order to balance the proposed budget, needs a tax increase of approximately 11.5%.

The new tax rate has been set by the state and the town must abide by state law, however, many persons felt that if their taxes had increased to this extent there must be a number of citizens who will realize a much lower tax than ever before.

It was suggested to council that the budget is much too high and must be cut one way or another.

Mayor Pack agreed with those present that taxes had increased tremendously.

Water rates, sewerage rates and the budgeting of Revenue Sharing were also discussed.

Tommy Lawson, Attorney, appeared before council regarding the present Zoning Ordinance. The Zoning Ordinance now in effect is the original ordinance drawn up in 1969 and Lawson felt that it is outdated. He asked council to consider changing the ordinance for the better & suggested that the Appomattox Planning Commission look to future growth of the town, look at land use suitability for desirable, clean business establishments. At the present time, the ordinance has business zoned B-1, and that could include anything from a professional office building to a junk yard. He suggested that business by zoned B-1, B-2, B-3 and on down to cover all existing businesses with regard to location and asked that the Commission consider "special section zon-

Continued on Page 7

CVPDC TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED HOUSING POLICIES

The Central Virginia Planning District Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed Housing Policies Plan Update for the Central Virginia Planning District on Jan. 5, 1978.

The plan updates the Housing Policies Plan adopted by the commission in 1975. It incorporates updated statistics that reflect new jurisdictional boundaries due to annexation, the housing needs of low income families and the elderly, the need for neighborhood conservation and new legislation affecting housing. The plan is the result of many months of research and analysis done by the CVPDC Commissioners, Regional Planning Advisory Committee, staff and interested citizens.

The purpose of the hearing is to gain input from the citizens of Central Virginia so that the plan can be modified where necessary to reflect the desires of the district citizens.

The public hearing will be held at Circuit Courtroom B, 900 Court Street (New Courthouse), Lynchburg, at 7:30 p.m. on January 5, 1978. Your interest and attendance will be appreciated.

CONDUCTS MODEL INTERVIEWS WITH ACHS SENIORS

Mr. James F. Dorety, Employment Manager at Armstrong Company, Appomattox, conducted model interviews with selected seniors in English 12 classes at Appomattox County High School on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 1977. Each interview was evaluated by Mr. Dorety who stressed the importance of the job interview and proper procedures to observe. The activity was incorported in the unit on Job Entry Skills. These experiences are planned to better prepare the seniors for the jobs they will seek after graduation.

Minimum Requirements For Graduation Reviewed By Board

Beginning in January, 1978, the Appomattox County High School Mathematics teachers will review the mathematics program and the minimum requirements for graduation suggested by the State Board of Education. From this study the group will recommend a set of minimum requirements in mathematics for ACHS students. Available tests will be reviewed and an appropriate test will be selected to be administered to ninth grade students during the month of February. The present ninth grade will have to meet minimum requirements to graduate from high school in 1981.

Students whose test scores show weaknesses will be given some additional assistance during March and April. In May these students will be retested.

By the end of April it is anticipated that minimum requirements will be established in literacy, social studies, and further education and/or employment, according to members of the Appomattox County School Board meeting in regular session on Friday, December 9, 1977.

Before the end of the present school session, all eighth and ninth grade students will be tested to determine the accomplishments of Appomattox County students relative to minimum skills and knowledge. In subsequent years it is anticipated that an initial test for minimum competencies will be given to eighth grade students during April or May of the school year. Information compiled from the tests given in the eighth grade will be used to plan appropriate activities for students during the following years.

At Friday's meeting, the School Board approved a change in the 1977-78 School Calendar, declaring January 2, 1978 as a holiday for all employees. When to make up this date will be decided upon by the Board at a later date.

Prior to the meeting a luncheon was given in the Appomattox County High School as an expression of appreciation to Mr. C. T. Moses, Jr. and Mr. Fred Lawson for their assistance with the driver education program.

A report was given on activities of the School Board Policies committee. In November the committee met and organized a questionnaire to go to the School Board employees for the purpose of receiving information as to changes needed in policies. This was accomplished. The responses from employees was excellent.

At the meeting in December of the committee the information from the questionnaires was reviewed and a list of policy changes and additions was compiled. Policies will be revised and additional policies written. This information will

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VIRGINIA EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION MANAGER AND EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVE SPEAK TO SENIORS AT ACHS

On Thursday, December 8, 1977, Mr. J. H. Riddle, Manager of the Virginia Employment Commission in Lynchburg and Mr. James A. Wolfe, Employment Representative for the V.E.C., spoke to all seniors at Appomattox County High School on employment procedures, how the Virginia Employment Commission assists persons in securing jobs, and the responsibilities of job applicants. The Guidance Department and English Department have coordinated a unit on Job Entry Skills.

Shown above, left to right, are Andy Wingfield, Polly Carter, seniors; Mrs. H. P. James, Counselor and coordinator of program; Mr. J. H. Riddle and Mr. James A. Wolfe of the V.E.C.; and Marzetta Hodnett, Beth Smoak, Tommy Moore, and Laurie Selz, seniors.

Bloodmobile Visit Set For Tuesday

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will make its visit to Appomattox on Tuesday, December 20th, and will be set up in Liberty Baptist Church from noon until 6 p.m., according to Mrs. Ginny Towns, Chairman of the Blood Program for Appomattox County.

The quota for this visit is set at 110 units of blood and seventeen year olds are reminded that they may donate blood with parental consent. A nursery will be provided for children of donors.

Dr. Marci Cannon, Medical Director of the Appalachian Red Cross Blood Center, has announced that some conditions which formerly prevented people from donating blood have been modified.

Only a few medications, in and of themselves, prevent donation of blood automatically.

Formerly, the Red Cross deferred people who had reached their 66th birthday. Now, those over 66 who are in good health, and who have their doctor's approval, may give blood.

Diabetics who control their condition by dieting or oral medicines may donate. People who had minor surgery used to be deferred automatically for six months. Now, those who are released by their physicians and who are feeling well may give.

The new Red Cross policy permits people with lower pulse rates to give. People who were deferred in the past for conditions such as these are invited to come again to contribute blood.

Mark your calendar for December 20th and come out and donate a unit of YOUR LIFE SAVING BLOOD and let's keep our county 100% of its quota. It takes very little time, it is painless, and it is one of the most worthwhile projects you could possibly participate in . . . donate Tuesday!

Santa To Visit Pamplin Saturday

The Pamplin Ruritan Club will bring Santa to Pamplin Saturday, December 17, 1977.

Santa will arrive in downtown Pamplin at 2 p.m. with candy for all the children.

Local Youth, Loiterers May Face New Curbs

If the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors go through with passage of two ordinances presented to them Friday, juveniles in Appomattox County would have to be home by midnight and their older companions would have to leave public places an hour later.

The supervisors voted to advertise for a public hearing on curfew and loitering ordinances for the county at their January 13, 1978 meeting.

The supervisors seemed inclined to adopt the ordinances presented by Sheriff J. E. Richardson and W. S. Kerr, commonwealth's attorney. The proposed curfew ordinance would make it a misdemeanor for a youth, under 18, to be out in the county from midnight to 5 a.m., unless accompanied by parent or guardian.

The first offense would carry a fine of $25.00 t0 $100.00 and the fine for a second offense would be $50.00 to $200.00, according to the proposal developed by Kerr.

The loitering ordinance would prohibit any person from being at a public place, either publicly or privately owned, between 1 and 5 a.m. The maximum penalty would be six months in jail and a $500.00 fine under the proposal.

Richardson asked the supervisors to consider the ordinance because of a problem with bands of juveniles and young adults congregating around

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Supervisors See No Hike In County Taxes

Delegate Claude W. Anderson of Dillwyn, a member of the House Finance Committee and representative of Appomattox County, told the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors at their Friday meeting that the 1978 General Assembly session will be asked to enact several new taxes, but as a member of this committee, he said he would be very surprised if any of them are adopted.

"I think people have had about as many taxes and new programs as they can stand," Anderson said and he is a member of the committee that would have to approve any tax increases.

Anderson said two of the tax proposals are coming from local governments, but the Appomattox supervisors said they do not favor any new taxes.

He said local governments are putting pressure on the legislators to add a penny to the state's 4 per cent sales tax, with half the revenues going to the state and the other half going back to the localities.

The second proposal from local governments would allow them to add a "piggyback" income tax, to the state's income tax. Anderson agreed that local governments need some financial help. He added that property taxes have gone about as far as we can go. However, he and the supervisors agreed that the answer to the governments' financial squeeze is not more taxes.

The supervisors suggested eliminating some of the state-mandated programs that have placed a burden on the localities.

Anderson said the legislators have become very conscious of the impact their actions have on local finances and that he doesn't think we will find any more of that. Efforts will be made to eliminate some of the existing state-mandated programs.

The Democratic delegate said another proposed tax hike calls for increasing the state's gasoline tax, now 11 cents per gallon. Anderson will reject this proposal as he feels that gas is about as high as it can go.

The supervisors agreed, with Dr. S. R. Lawson pointing out that the low and middle income taxpayers who already are hit the hardest by taxes would feel

Continued on Page 7

Appomattox Middle School beginning Eight Grade band students are shown rehearsing for Thursday night's Band Concert.

Christmas Concert Planned

The Appomattox Middle School and the Appomattox County High School Music Departments will present a Christmas Concert in the ACHS auditorium on Thursday night, December 15, at 7:30 p.m. The concert will include performances by choral groups, beginning band students and the Middle School and High School Concert Band students. There will be no admission charge and the public is cordially invited to attend.